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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000596

SIPDIS

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WHA/CAR

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: HAITI HUMANITARIAN AID: DUTCH CONSIDERING APPEALS

REF: STATE 52611

(SBU) EconOff delivered ref demarche to Johanneke de Hoogh of the MFA's Humanitarian Aid Division. Ms. De Hoogh said the Dutch were seriously considering making a pledge to one or more of the appeals and were at the moment favoring the ICRC Budget Extension Appeal over the UN Flash Appeal. They believe the ICRC has a good established network in Haiti and thereby could be more effective in providing health and other services. The Dutch are checking with their missions in Geneva and New York to determine to what degree the UN appeal is humanitarian aid-focused and to what degree it will be a means to build UN capacity in country. The results of this research may influence the Dutch decision of whether or not to fund the UN Flash Appeal out of their humanitarian aid budget. Ms. De Hoogh promised to pass us any information on Dutch pledging as soon as decisions are made.
SOBEL